(ii) Promotions of buyer-seller meets and establishing DWCRA Bazaars.

(iii) Gruhamitra, a new concept for the sale of products through Public Distribution System outlets.

(iv) Rural Development Department has involved APNA BAZAAR (a non-profit organization promoting consumer awareness) in establishment of 1100 consumer retail outlets in various parts of Andhra Pradesh. The owners of Apna Bazaar outlets would get an average of 10% on the total sales.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

**Price stabilisation fund for plantation sector**

2699. SHRI R.RGOENKA:

SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to seek funds from the World Bank and other multilateral agencies to enhance the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) created for the plantation sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with its present status; and

(c) the details of other initiatives being taken, if any, to provide relief to the plantation sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Concerned with the problems being faced by growers of plantation commodities like tea, coffee and natural rubber, due to the low prices, Government has taken several measures to provide necessary relief *in* this sector. The major initiatives include :

* Rephasement/restructuring of loans taken by growers of tea and coffee from commercial banks

* Providing interest relief of 5% to small growers and 3% to large growers of coffee on the working capital loans taken from financial institutions

* Providing financial incentives for promoting export of tea, coffee and natural rubber

* Implementation of medium term export strategies for tea, coffee and natural rubber, prepared through private consultants

* Undertaking campaigns to promote domestic consumption of tea and coffee

* Notification of Tea Marketing Control Order 2003 and issuance of directives for new auction rules to provide greater transparency in the price discovery mechanism for tea

* Fixation and notification of minimum prices for natural rubber

* Enforcement of quality standards formulated by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on imported rubber as already in force on domestic rubber

All the above steps taken by the Government are in addition to implementation of different developmental schemes by the concerned Commodity Boards under which various types of financial and technical assistance are provided to the growers.

**Floriculture export**

2700. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY :

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether floriculture exports from the country have gone up during the last two years;

(b) if so, the States exporting more floriculture products; and

(c) the measures proposed to encourage the floriculturists to grow more flowers to increase trade further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fresh flowers are mainly exported from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra, whereas dried flowers are being exported mainly from Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.